

# Garden City Garden Club

## July 2015 Newsletter



Ms. July Valerie Templeton

### Newsletter format changes.

I will be adding the meeting agenda and any information I receive concerning items on the agenda, to the newsletter. Hopefully this will help everyone stay informed and ready to discuss issues and programs at our meetings.

Agenda's will also help me take better notes for the minutes.

Please let me know if there is any information that is incorrect or incomplete so I can update the agenda for the meeting. Pat McKarge, Secretary

### Meeting Information

**Tuesday, July 21, 2015**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Della Haydon's home**

**29002 Alvin Street, Garden City**

**Bring a chair to sit on and a dish to pass!**

We have a lot to discuss at the meeting and we also get to see Della's beautiful backyard. See you Tuesday.

### Special Thank You to Garden Walk Volunteers

Thank you to Garden Walk Chairperson, Val Templeton; President Stacy Karafotis; and our host and hostesses: Ken Polzin, Paula Relich, Carolyn Sylvester, Debbie Grochowski, Cheryl Partin, Tina Wing, Barb Hernandez, Cheryl Guck and Roxanne Mueller for all the work you did for the walk. Also, thank you, Sue Orzel, Pam King and Pat McKarge for opening your yards for the walk. To all our members who supported this event, thank you!

### Garden Club Dues

Club dues, \$15.00 were due in June. Please give Val Templeton the money at the meeting or mail her a check made out to Garden City Garden Club. Val's address is 30331 Windsor, Garden City, MI 48135. Make sure she has current contact information for you. Pat McKarge will be making a new directory and Garden Club booklet. Please send or give Pat a picture that she can use for the directory.

### Garden City Garden Club

Our goals and focus are in sharing knowledge, learning about the environment and horticulture, youth activities, flower arranging, community service, scholarships and social activities.

# Garden City Garden Club

## Meeting Agenda for July 21, 2015

Meeting Place: Della Haydn's home at 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

II. Minutes

III. Treasurer's Report

IV. Program Reports

1. Garden Walk – Val
2. Community Service Updates
3. Butterfly Garden at City Park
4. Gardenville
5. Entrance Sign at Garden City Park
6. Fire Station

V. Horticulture

VI. Environmental

VII. Social Activities

1. Finlandia Garden in Farmington Hills \*See info attached
2. Hidden Lakes Garden\* See info attached

VII. Old Business

1. Blue Star Program \*See info attached

VIII. New Business

1. Garden Club , Members t-shirts
2. St. Dunstan's Gardens – Stacy
3. Speaker – Katie Smith, Florence Park Renovation

Meeting Adjourned

## Garden City Garden Club Minutes

### June 16, 2015 Annual Club Picnic at Taylor Conservatory

Meeting called to order at 6:13 p.m.

Minutes Approved

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$4,684.00, we made \$65.25 at the Flea Circus Bake Sale

Business Discussed:

1. **Garden Walk:**

Roxanne Mueller volunteered to be a hostess at the Garden Walk, replace Barb Sandberg who will not be available.

Stacy Karofotis encouraged every member to buy or sell at least two tickets to the walk.

Stacy also recommended members use **Facebook** to advertise the Garden Walk and other Garden Club activities.

2. **Dues** Members were reminded that club dues are due, \$15.00.

3. **Garden Club Calendars:** Cheryl Partin and Stacy Karofotis encouraged everyone to try and sell the 2015 calendars. We have approximately 100 left. Try to sell them for \$5 or \$6 dollars each.

4. **Blue Star Program** Della Haydn talked about the Blue Star Program sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Members agreed to get more information about the program and to support the project. The Blue Star Program is a Michigan Garden Club program that pays tribute to the Armed Forces.

5. **Citizen Recognition Program:** The Garden Club will be sending a certificate to homes that have especially nice yards. Keep your eye out in your neighborhood for those homes you think should receive the certificate. Bring names and addresses to the meeting with you, or send them to Stacy Karofotis.

**Butterfly Garden:** Debbie Grochowski volunteered to chair the Butterfly Garden Committee.

**Correspondence:** The Garden Club received a thank-you letter from the Fire Department for the renovated landscaping at the fire station.

**Gardenville:** Stacy Karofotis reported that Gardenville is looking great. Volunteers are needed to keep the weeds in check. The garden has been mulched but weeds do get through.

**Community Programs:**

The DDA is expanding the Chili Cook-off but is in need of volunteer workers.

Katie Smith, a young lady from Garden City, has started a volunteer program to enhance Floence Park and other parks in Garden City. Garden Club members were encouraged to support the program. There will be a Fundraiser in August at Maplewood Center.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

After the meeting, members enjoyed the pot luck picnic. There was a large variety of great food that we all enjoyed. After dinner members explored the Taylor Conservatory. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful gardens and potted plants.

Minutes submitted by:  
Pat McKarge, Secretary

## ***Garden Club Community Service Project Update***



The red, white and blue flowers at the Commons makes the Ford/Middlebelt intersection look great.

### **Fire Station**



The new landscaping is a nice addition to the Fire Station. As the plants grow and fill in the area it will be a big improvement to the area. The mulch is keeping weeds down.

### **Gardenville**



Flowers and vegetables are growing, but so are the weeds! We need your help, even 20 minutes makes a difference.

### **Butterfly Garden at City Park**



The garden is full of flowers. Some thinning will have to be done this fall. Thank you to Debbie Grochowski who has taken over the chairmanship of the Butterfly Garden. Please support her.

## June Potluck Dinner and Meeting at Taylor Conservatory



One of our newest members,  
Sherry Mifsud and her husband



Val Templeton and Debbie Grochowski



Carolyn Sylvester, Bobby Somerville, Tina Wing  
and Leslye Wolf



Barb Hernandez, Cheryl Guck and Paula Relich

## Garden Walk



Pat's Potato Tower



Pam's unique downspot



Sue's Butterfly Haven



Succulent hanging garden



Memorial School Butterfly  
Garden



## Agenda Item information (Social Activities)

### Summer at Finlandia Gardens

**35200 W. 8 Mile, Farmington MI 48335**

**Approximately 20 minute drive from Garden City**

**Open dawn to dusk**

Summer at Finlandia Gardens is a time for careful observation. There is so much to see. Plants in our vegetable gardens are developing fast enough that you can watch them grow over a few hours. In summer there are always many perennial plants in bloom each day. When you miss a few days in the gardens, you miss a blooming experience until another year. This becomes more important as the years go by, for maturing often makes one realize what the really important things are in life, and gardens are certainly one of these.

Our Succulent Garden offers many colors and textures and in the Water Garden the movement of fish can be seen. Butterflies enjoy our many annuals as they move in unpredictable flight among bright colors. We are a Monarch Butterfly Way Station so inspection of our milkweed plants can result in finding butterfly eggs and caterpillars. Visit our Look, Touch, Smell, and Taste Garden Cart to add some new flavors to your life. Have you ever tried chocolate mint?

Come to Finlandia Gardens in the rain for a great experience of sound and renewal particularly after a dry spell. Rain does not seem to be appreciated by local weather persons but to a gardener it can be a gift from heaven.

We are happy to give you a tour by appointment if we are not on site, or just stop by to explore our landscape. Visit our Finnish Center which is open on Mon - Friday between 10 AM and 4 PM. Our gift shop offers many items of interest including some delectable foods. Come by and introduce yourself. **Our gardens are open to the public from dawn to dusk.**

### Hidden Lake Gardens

**72144 Monroe, Tipton Michigan 49287**

**Approximately 1 hour 10 minutes from Garden City**

**Open Year-round: April – October, 9 AM – 7 PM**

Hidden Lake Gardens is a 755-acre botanical garden and arboretum owned by Michigan State University. Tucked away in the Irish Hills region of southeastern Michigan, it's a scenic and serene destination for family outings, picnics, trail walking, bicycling, sightseeing, and more. The Gardens' picturesque landscapes beckon nature lovers, photographers, and gardeners of all ages. Its six miles of paved one-way roadways and more than ten miles of marked hiking trails provide access to woodland areas, meadows, and glacial kettleholes. Notable collections include the renowned Justin C. (Chub) Harper Dwarf and Rare Conifer Collection with more than 500 specimens, the Ralph H. (Herb) and Dorothy Benedict Hosta Hillside, and the Elsie MacCready Memorial Bonsai Collection. The Gardens offers guided tours, classes, and special events, including our ever-popular plant sale that takes place each year on the second weekend in May. While you're in the area, discover more of Lenawee County and the Irish Hills. Visit historic Tecumseh, Brooklyn, and Adrian for food, shopping, art, antiques, and fun. [www.visitlenawee.com](http://www.visitlenawee.com) [www.irishhills.com](http://www.irishhills.com) [www.downtowntecumseh.com](http://www.downtowntecumseh.com)

## Agenda item: Old Business

### Blue Star Memorial Marker A Michigan Garden Club program that pays tribute to the Armed Forces

#### Planning Steps for a Blue Star Memorial Dedication

Discuss the program with your garden club and receive approval.

Organize a Blue Star committee.

Select a chairperson and your site.

Choose a marker and plan funding.

Your club may cover all expenses, or be assisted by civic group contributions.

Mail the official application with a check written to Sewah Studios to Jean Goetz for processing.

Jean will send a packet of dedication ideas so you can begin planning a memorable occasion.

Receive your marker (allow 2 months). Check the marker for accuracy.

Schedule a dedication date with Jean.

Plan invitations, program, reception, photos etc.

Enjoy your success in creating this patriotic event for your garden club and community.

**HISTORY:** The Blue Star Memorial program was developed by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. in 1945 to pay tribute to the Armed Forces that defended our country during World War II. Based on the original Blue Star flag displayed in family homes, the star became a standard symbol on dedicated Blue Star Highways throughout the United States. The placement of Blue Star markers was approved by state legislatures in cooperation with State Departments of Transportation. Today the Blue Star Memorial program has expanded to include many locations including highways, parks, veterans' facilities, national cemeteries, and historic/civic sites. The markers pay tribute to all the Armed Forces which defend our country, and they are a visible reminder of our love of gardening and our support for the Armed Forces of the USA.

**Blue Star Memorial Benefits:** Honors the service and sacrifices of all veterans: past, present and future.  
Creates a visible and long-lasting tribute to the Armed Forces.  
Encourages a love of gardening.  
Unites the community and local garden clubs.  
Fosters patriotism

Joins together many diverse groups: garden club members, Michigan Garden Club officers, veterans' groups, local and state governmental representatives, military officers, scouts, honor guards, bands, singers. Teenagers may be included through a Blue Star Essay Contest.

#### There are two types of Blue Star Memorial Markers

Both are made of cast aluminum, and are created by Sewah Studios for National Garden Clubs, Inc.



**Large Memorial Marker (\$1350)\*** (The original highway marker) The plate is 41" high x 45" wide. It has its own post and stands 7'6" tall when installed. This type of marker may be placed along highways, in rest areas and near welcome centers. It may also be placed in national cemeteries, veterans' medical centers, parks, gardens, and other civic locations.

**Byway Marker (\$450)\*** This smaller 12" x 20" plaque is designed for mounting on masonry, wood or a stone. It is to be placed in civic gardens, parks, or at historic sites.



## Open Garden at John Blair's house July 26, 2015

2155 S. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI 48186 Sunday,  
2:00pm

See the Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden as plants begin to grow. This way you will be able to see the plants fully grown you may want to plant in your garden next year.

His address is 2155 S. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI 48186, but there is NO parking at his house. Parking will be along Norene St.

This is a FREE event.



### We Need Your Favorite Recipes

Remember we are collecting favorite recipes to include in the Garden Club Recipe Book. We want have the books ready to sell at the Garden City Chili Cook-off Event.

You can email your recipe directly to Val Templeton at [valerietempleton@hotmail.com](mailto:valerietempleton@hotmail.com) or bring a copy of to a meeting.

#### 2014-2016 Officers

**President:**

Stacy Karafotis

**1st Vice President**

Roxanna Mueller

**Treasurer**

Val Templeton

Cheryl Partin

**Secretary**

Pat McKarge

**Motion Secretary**

Val Templeton

**GCGC website:**

<http://gcfg.weebly.com>

**GCGC Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/gcgcmi](http://www.facebook.com/gcgcmi)

Joe Barson, from Barson's Greenhouse said that vegetable plants are being hit with fungal infections this year due to the amount of rain we have been getting. There are sprays to fight this available and safe for vegetables (even classified as organic).

**Garden City Recycling Center:** Self-service recycling drop off center is located at 31800 Beechwood. You can drop off cardboard, paper, glass, aluminum and metal cans. The facility is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. (Thanks Ken, for supplying info)

**Save your plastic bags for Lucky Dog.** We are also asking members to save their plastic store bags for Lucky Dog Daycare. They use them to clean up after the dogs. Bring them to meetings or drop them off at Lucky Dog .

#### 2014-2015 Chairperson

**Christmas Party**

Barb Hernandez

**Butterfly Garden  
Debbie Grochowski**

**Garden Walk**

Val Templeton

**Horticulture**

Linda Noble

**Environmental**

Ken Polzin

**Newsletter**

Pat McKarge

**Scholarship**

Joy Thiede

Heidi Witt